

in Sacramento stands ready to assist in any new ways you may envision-please contact us anytime.

Volunteer & Service Issues for Blue Ribbon Panel

The Southern California Fires brought forward many issues to be considered in an effort to improve emergency response statewide. GO SERV participated in a state agency meeting at CA OES to incorporate any last, key issues into the document being assembled for the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel Task Force final report on the Fires. Service and volunteer resources were used throughout the fire incident, from VIPS teams at the State Operations Center helping with call center duties; Volunteer Centers helping with unaffiliated volunteers; Red Cross and Salvation Army with mass care assistance; CERTs and AmeriCorps programs helping with "standing up" the local assistance centers (LACs). Observations gathered from a teleconference debrief meeting of key volunteer-related stakeholders involved with the incident were shared with the group. The final Blue Ribbon report will likely be completed in early March.

2004 Citizen Corps Grant Developing

With the due date extension from the office of Domestic Preparedness for the California State Terrorism Strategy, the release of the 2004 guidance for Citizen Corps has also been postponed. The "bundled" grant containing the Citizen Corps Program, the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, and the State Homeland Security Program, will now likely be distributed the week of February 13. As a reminder, the single-application grant will be coming from CA OES on behalf of the Office of Homeland Security, GO SERV, and OES.

2005 Grant: Good First News!!



News From the Team

From Adam Sutkus,
Citizen Corps Program Director

A certain theme that is becoming clearer to us in the Citizen Corps world is that our field is "maturing." By that I mean we are seeing, in our second year, many clues that the development of community preparedness and personal safety as an everyday, permanent behavior is becoming institutionalized in California. Between the lessons learned from 9/11 and the recent fires in California, organizations as diverse as community-based groups, Volunteer Centers, new Citizen Corps Councils, state agencies, flagship organizations such as the American Red Cross, and business organizations are all re-thinking the best ways to enhance effectiveness and "take charge." A perfect example is now a doubling of the number of CERT programs in our state in just over a year. It is a feeling in the air--yes; but clearly more backed up by statistics of progress.

We believe this marks a turning point in the evolution towards a "professionalization" of community and citizen volunteer efforts for personal safety. This is not a fad; this is not a simple increase in a few hours of random volunteering-it is a focus and dedication to emergency preparedness and homeland security that is becoming a permanent fixture in our society.

One of our missions as GO SERV is to assist this groundswell of interest by providing tools and guidance to both the volunteer and service world as well as local and state government to maximize and leverage efforts for effectiveness. In the coming weeks and months we will report on new initiatives underway and resources available to support this approach. Keep up the good work and your team



Arnold Schwarzenegger,
Governor
Alex Reid, Chair
David Muraki,
Executive Director (Interim)

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Inside this Issue

1	News from the Team
2	Funding Update
3	CERT News
4	Questions and Answers
5	Contacts
6	

The President's fiscal year 2005 budget proposal contained a very welcome surprise--the allocation for national Citizen Corps Program was increased from \$40 million in 2004 to \$50 million in 2005. California's percentage will be commensurate with the final resolution of the allocation formula. Two formulas are currently under debate, one formula would continue funding at a population based model, while the other formula is based on a risk and vulnerability based model. We will be watching the 2005 budget process and key legislation closely and keep you informed.

GO SERV Reaching Out

With all the grant activity during the first year, the truth is that we were unable to work with our statewide business partners and other groups as much as we had hoped. We are changing that now by collaborating with many key partners that have a statewide presence in local communities. These key partners will help with the development of Citizen Corps Councils and the core programs of CERT, VIPS, NW, and MRC programs. GO SERV staff recently spoke to the state leadership team of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; previously with the Business and Industry Council for Emergency Preparedness and Prevention in Los Angeles; the Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees), and others. We are now aggressively looking for more key, motivated partners. Every effort needs a local leader to "get things started" -- we are excited that these and other organizations will soon help interested citizens throughout the state link up and participate with individual and family preparedness efforts in their local areas.

2004 CERT Update

During this past month GO SERV conducted 2 CERT TTT courses. The City of Woodland Fire Department co-sponsored our Woodland CERT

Train-the-Trainer. Thanks must go to Bruce Lecair, of City of Woodland Fire Department. Without his support, the training session would not have been the success that it was. Counties that sent representatives to the 3 day training were: Yolo, Colusa, Glen, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Sutter, and Yuba as well as Orange County Fire Authority personnel. All participants deserve a thank you for contributing the rich content of the class.

The instructor, Howard Hoff, from Santa Clara County, was asked a little late in the game but instantly took grasp of the task did an exemplary job. He deserves an extra amount of recognition.

The Humboldt Chapter of the American Red Cross co-sponsored our Eureka CERT Train-the-Trainer.

Sometimes because of low population density, the far northern part of the state is often under-served and over looked when it comes to distributing resources. GO SERV understands that rural and remote communities must be self sufficient since any disaster assistance could be delayed days if not weeks if resources are needed in more populated areas. It is important that our remote communities receive CERT training.

The instructor, John Acre, of LA City Fire Department was asked to in fill at the last minute. Even with such short notice he did a great job and there were many complements from the students. Without his support, the training session would not have been the success that it was. Counties that sent representatives were: Humboldt, Del Norte, Mendocino, Sonoma, Tehama, and Stanislaus.

All participants deserve a thank you for contributing to the class. GO SERV will be collaborating with others to hold four (4) more courses this year.

GO SERV also convened the second meeting of the statewide CERT

workgroup. At this meeting, a group of CERT experts from around the state convened at the Chevron-Texaco Facility in Concord, February 4th, to continue to develop a quality Statewide CERT Program.

During its last meeting the Statewide CERT Program Workgroup highlighted the key need for CERT "instructor training" to create a wider pool of qualified individuals to teach TTT classes statewide. This "T-4" course was discussed at length at the meeting. It will be a course that a local jurisdiction can send an individual to; upon their return they will be able start up, develop, maintain and apply advance techniques to a CERT program.

Upon conclusion of the long productive day, the group had discussed, modified, finalized, and then approved the T4 curriculum. They then divided up the curriculum and assigned themselves portions to take back to develop the training plans for each subject area. The group also put together an aggressive work-plan to ensure the first "Program Manager Academy" class will be delivered in August.

Please contact Jim Brown, CERT Coordinator, for further information.
Jim.Brown@GOSERV.CA.GOV.

GO SERV Working with Law Enforcement Programs

There are hundreds of local Volunteer In Police Service (VIPS) programs; Citizens on Patrol (COPS), young person "Explorer Programs," etc. have all been working to enhance the policing efforts of local government for several years without any collaboration from each other, federal, state, or other local entities.

GO SERV is currently developing a methodology for surveying these groups and tracking the number of volunteers and their efforts within their community to share with the rest

of the state to enhance the efforts of local police volunteer groups.

GO SERV has successfully initiated a relationship with the National Association of Citizens on Patrol (NACOP), the National Sheriffs Association, the Department of Justice, International Association of Chiefs of Police, and several state associations representing volunteer policing efforts throughout the State of California in an effort to enhance the programs that already exist.

The survey should be "on-line" by the end of February. Contact Brian Knudsen, Brian.Knudsen@GOSERV.CA.GOV, for information.

MRC Update

There are currently 12 federally granted and many more recognized Medical Reserve Corps (MRCs) in California. The State is now coordinating new voluntary organizations and will strive toward MRC inter-compatibility throughout California. The Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), a department under California's Health & Human Services Agency, will be the department responsible for this task. EMSA will work closely with GO SERV, other organizations, and will chair the MRC subcommittee of the State Citizen Corps Council.

EMSA hopes to soon complete discussions with the key federal agencies and start regular conference calls with all of the MRCs and various stakeholders throughout the State. One of EMSA's goals this year is to produce a document that will be a "how-to manual" for MRCs. This document would come out of collaboration with all the MRCs and would include hints and ideas to help in the organization, recruitment, and budgeting process. The manual would be a basic "guidance" document, not State mandates. For the following year, EMSA hopes to prepare a more detailed "Part II" of the manual that would include

suggested MRC protocols, directions for dealing with liability, workers compensation, policy and legislation, etc.

For more information regarding Medical Reserve Corps, please contact Sherrill Reed at 916-322-4336 ext 406.

Citizen Corps Progress!!!

We now have 112 registered CERT programs in California, up from 49 this time last year. We also have 43 registered Citizen Corps Councils throughout the state. Medical Reserve Corps has 12 granted programs and 8 others currently active throughout California. **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.** Don't forget to register your program, if you haven't already done so. Also, do not forget to register your Neighborhood Watch or VIPS programs on their respective web sites.

NOTE TO GRANTEEES

Unfortunately many grantees of '02 and '03 Citizen Corps & CERT grant are out of compliance by not submitting current quarterly reports and other completed documentation.

INVOICES WILL BE DENIED UNTIL DOCUMENTATION IS CURRENT.

Conference Update

GO SERV is going to be rescheduling the Governor's Conference. A new date has not yet been selected but should be scheduled soon. We plan on showcasing California's service field to Governor Schwarzenegger at the conference and felt that rescheduling will help to ensure the fullest participation of the new administration in the planning and implementation of the conference. We ask for your patience and continued support during this time of transition, as GO SERV works with the new Administration to schedule the conference at a time that best suits our new Governor and First Lady.

FAQS

Grantee Information

Q. Where can I find the **Invoice Instructions, Form, and Expense Reports** and the **Budget Revision Form** for the 2002 Citizen Corps and CERT Grants?

- A.**
1. Go to www.goserv.ca.gov.
 2. On left hand side click on **Grantee Central**.
 3. Enter password: and then click login.
 4. On the left hand side you will now see a menu of items under **Grantee Central**....Click on **Citizen Corps**.
 5. You will now see the message "Welcome to the Citizen Corps section of Grantee Central! Use the tabs above to navigate through this section of the website."
 6. Click on the tab labeled **2002 Application Forms**. The "Invoicing Instructions and Forms" and the "Budget Revision Instructions and Form" can be found here.

Q. What is the contract term for my agency/organization's 2002 Citizen Corps and CERT Grants?

- A.** If you look at the top of the 1st page of the contract will see that the agreement was entered into on December 5, 2002. Also, you can find the complete term of the contract on the 2nd page of the contract labeled "II. Term." With the recently announced extension, the contract term is as follows: December 5, 2002 – December 5, 2003.

Q. When can my agency/organization incur expenses for the 2002 Citizen Corps and CERT Grants?

- A.** Your agency/organization can only incur expenses during the contract term. The contract term is as follows: December 5, 2002 – December 5, 2003.

Q. When is the FINAL invoice due for the 2002 Citizen Corps and CERT Grants?

A. The final invoice is due 60 days after the expiration of your contract. If you did not receive an extension your final invoice should have already been submitted. If you did receive an extension, your final invoice is due **Tuesday May 4, 2004.**

Citizens Corps Contact:

Main Number....

916.323.7646

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